

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8 and 11-22 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: As to independent claim 1, the prior art does not teach or suggest a fractionation device including flow channels assembled in a cartridge and a flow pump provided with a rotating rotor and a roller, and a portion of the outer wall of the cartridge is a squeezing member for squeezing a part of the flow channels.

As to independent claims 13 and 14, the prior art does not teach or suggest a fractionation device wherein a part of the outer wall of the cartridge is a squeezing member, and a tube forming a part of the circuit of the fractionation device is disposed on a part of the outer wall of the squeezing member.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Miller et al., U.S. 7,682,833, discloses a cartridge in which a pump means provides pressure on a paddle which exerts a force upon an air bladder comprised of a cavity covered by a thin-film gasket to displace fluids within conduits of the cartridge. Column 22, lines 21-57. (The air bladder is considered distinct from a flow channel or tube forming part of a circuit as claimed by Applicant.)

Kornelsen, 20020197167, discloses a microfluidic device that utilizes deformation of a channel by mechanical or pneumatic force to displace fluids within the channel and moving the deformation region along the channel to pump fluid through the channel.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANN Y. LAM whose telephone number is (571)272-0822. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. 9-7:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Shibuya can be reached on 571-272-0806. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1641

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ann Y. Lam/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1641